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Councilmember Dela Cruz Proposes $17.3 Million in Cuts to City Budget

Proposed Amendments to Reduce Property Tax Rate

Honolulu: Councilmember Donovan Dela Cruz proposes budget cuts totaling $17,398,534. Of the $17,398,534 in proposed amendments, $12,650,938 of the cuts will be used to reduce the residential real property tax rate.

Proposed amendments for salaries include:

- Eliminating proposed salary increases for non-collective bargaining positions and monies budgeted for positions that have been vacant since 1995
- Reducing increases in Non-Holiday Overtime pay from Fiscal Year 2009 for various city departments
- Postponing funding for positions that will unlikely be filled on July 1, 2009 as indicated in the operating budget

"In these tough economic times, the city needs to tighten its belt. A lot of people are having a hard time making ends meet and we need to help. We need to strike a balance between providing service and responsibly reducing the budget." said Dela Cruz.

Proposed amendments for current expenses include:

- Eliminating the $5 million for the operation of the Intra-Island ferry
- Reducing monies for neighbor-island and out of state travel and request the departments to provide justification of the need to travel
- Reducing advertising and publication expenses
- Postponing funding office rent and office equipment for six months

"I included proviso language that requires city officials to make their travel activities public," said Dela Cruz. "The public should see what has been learned at these conferences and meetings that have been paid for with city monies."

For more information please contact Kimberly Ribellia at 768-5002.

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